Unintended benefits on drugs

1546. DR. JOSEPH LEON D'SOUZA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 753 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are number of other drugs such as Ephedrine Hcl, Phenobarbitone, Fursemide, Analgin, Tetracycline Hcl, Theophylline, Pyrantel Pamoate, Prednisolone, Dextrose Anhydrous, Aminophylline. Cloxcillin, Antipyrine, Oxyphenbutazone etc. where the formulators made huge unintended benefits which are within Government's knowledge;

(b) if so, names of the parties to whom notices under Equalisation Fund Account for other drugs were issued alongwith date in each case;

(c) names of the companies who provided the details against the notices;

(d) in how many cases the amount has been worked out and what is the total amount so far recovered;

(e) whether it is also a fact that total unintended benefit made by formulators is more than one thousand crores during the last three years; and

(f) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to expedite the finalisation of working in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) Out of the drugs referred to, instances of procuring Tetracycline Hydrochloride and Analgin by Hoechst (India) Limited at a price lower than the Government notified price was brought to the notice of the Government. Notices under para 7(2) were issued to M|s. Hoechst (India) Limited on 29th August, 1985 and 30th April, 1985 respectively.

(c), (d) and (f) Reply has since been received from Hoechst (India) Limited. Action on the reply received is on in accordance with due procedure of law to determine the excess amount.

(e) No, Sir.

Essential drugs

1547. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have classified certain drugs as essential drugs;

(b) if so, what are their names;

(c) whether adequate quantities of these drugs are being manufactured in the country to meet the needs of the public; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative how Government propose to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) The 1978 Drug Policy and the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 do not classify any drugs as essential drugs. Formulations are classified into four categories under Drugs (Prices Control) Order.

(c) and (d) The country has acquired self-sufficiency in formulations of about 55 bulk drugs. In order to encourage production and investment in the pharmaceutical industry, Government have already taken up the review of the 1978 Drug Policy.

New telephone exchanges in Gujarat

1548. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new telephone exchanges are proposed to be opened in Vadodra, Bharuch, Surat and Vasad districts of Gujarat during 1985-86 and 1987;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether estimated funds for these projects have been sanctioned;